



With **thankful** hearts, we **trust** in God as  
we **grow** in His **love** that **shines**  
through us. We aim to live our **faith** and  
grow in **wisdom**.

At Whitegate Church of England Primary school, we believe that the teachings of Jesus are central to meeting the needs of our local community. Work on the school vision began in 2018 and involved pupils, parents, teachers, staff, governors and members of the local community. In consultation with all of these parties, the statement above was created as a simple way of encapsulating our collective desire to give the children and adults who work in our school the chance to flourish and achieve the God-given potential they have.

***“...thankful hearts...”***

Respect is the foundation of thankfulness. Everyone within our school community deserves the respect to be treated and spoken to in a way they wish to be. Through an emphasis on the importance of manners and being polite (1 Thessalonians 5:18), we want to foster a natural desire within children and adults alike to love and care for each other in a way that we would all want to be loved and cared for.

In a world that is in the midst of a changing climate (in more ways than one), realising the importance of the things we have has never been more important. Having thankful hearts is more than just a verbal “please,” and “thank you,” (2 Corinthians 5:7). Throughout everyday life at Whitegate, our aim is to instill a collective mindset of thanks for our possessions and seek not to waste what has been blessed to us. With support from parents, we know we are working as one in the pursuit of developing grateful and thankful pupils (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

***“...trust in God...”***

Creating resilient children who are able to persevere is vital for the needs of our community. We want our children to be able to have the ‘stick-with-it-ness’ for all the challenges that life throws at them. By developing a trust in God as well in themselves and others around them, they will be able to tackle everything ahead of them.

At Whitegate, we provide our children with regular opportunities for them to try something new. Through providing safe spaces where pupils can be wrong and not experience success at the first attempt, we aim to create pupils who are patient and resilient (Hebrews 12:1-2). As we all build relationships with our pupils, we aim to demonstrate the value in accepting that those in authority over us are there to help us and are trust worthy. As a church school, we believe that trust in God leads to wisdom (Proverbs 3:5) and this leads to personal, spiritual and academic success. However, we equally accept the personal beliefs of all and aim to support everyone into becoming valued British citizens.

***“...grow in his love...”***

Love is an often over used word. We understand love to be honest, trusting, caring, respectful and truthful (1 Corinthians 13). At Whitegate, we know that children who love their neighbour (Matthew

22:37–39) and know that life cannot be lived fully on our own (Ecclesiastes 4:12), will grow into successful and happy people. Being able to cope with the unexpected, self-confidence and having a sense of humour are all qualities we strive to instil in our pupils. Through an academic approach that emphasises working with others, and a caring and nurturing pastoral environment, our pupils learn to accept help and advice from others and to become self-aware.

Our pupils grow from tiny Acorns into mighty Oaks. Through our children's journey through the school, pupils will have multiple opportunities to develop social skills that demonstrate compassion to all, including those who we find hard to get on with. Children have regular opportunities for spiritual development. This is central to our pupils flourishing into loving adults who are able to model faith and maturity to those around them (1 Corinthians 13:11).

### ***"...shines through us..."***

Since love is core to developing a cohesive environment where people of all faiths and cultures are able to thrive, children must have time to let their love shine. Central to allowing this is through providing opportunities for pupils to be role models to others. The development of independence and responsibility is, in part, done through the physical activity leaders, year 6 buddies, ethos groups, school council, school productions, sharing assemblies and collective worship. All adults involved in school life are expected to be live by the standards we expect of our children (Matthew 5:16). We have high expectations of our pupils to let their love for life and faith shine.

### ***"...live our faith..."***

Faith is defined as the complete trust or confidence in someone or something. At Whitegate, we embrace the teachings of Jesus and believe that these are trustworthy and beneficial for creating respectful members of society who seek to be the change they want to see. Whilst Christian teachings are discussed and explored, pupils are provided with a wealth of experiences to develop a faith of their own in order to live life to the full (Proverbs 19:8).

Through our work focusing on courageous advocates for change, we aim to give children the aspiration and desire to strive to be someone who stands up for good (Ephesians 5:11). Our aim for our pupils is that the fruits of their faith are, amongst others, love, tolerance, kindness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-26). As one example, by enabling all children to carry out an unselfish act, they are able to live out the characteristics of faith that develop character. All members of the Whitegate community are encouraged to model love through thought, word and action.

### ***"...grow in wisdom..."***

Wisdom forms a central pillar of all we aim to achieve. We aim to develop our children's ability to discern knowledge, to develop maturity (Ephesians 4:14-15) and be aware that the choices that they make now have lifelong consequences, whether positive or negative. In this ever changing, pluralistic world, it has never been more important for a generation to flourish into loving (1 Corinthians 16:14) and disciplined citizens (Hebrews 5:14) who are able to make good (Proverbs 22:6) and selfless (Philippians 2:4) choices. We want to give our pupils a desire to strive for more in life.

With the growth of wisdom, comes the growth of responsibility. We want the children to be the change they want to see and take responsibility for their actions. Central to cultivating wisdom, is the quality of taking advice (Deuteronomy 17:18-20). Our children precious to us, which is why we want to ensure that they are humble and willing to learn from their mistakes and make positive changes to themselves which positively impact others around them. One of the fruits of this wisdom,

is the improved ability to problem solve which aid academic attainment (Proverbs 1:7). At Whitegate, wisdom is the lens that knowledge is viewed through.

Our school's theologically and biblically rooted vision can be seen throughout all areas of the school. In the end, the vision for our school "Trusting in God; growing in Wisdom," is embodied within the golden rule that Jesus taught us to be at the centre of all we do: Treat others the way you wish to be treated (Matthew 7:12). This is not just what our local community needs, but it is also the only way that lasting, positive and transformational change will occur in a world that is in desperate need of wise men and women.

Parents and members of the local community are always welcome to come and join us for daily collective worship and also to come and join in with one of our numerous events.

**"...trusting in God, growing in wisdom..."**